Periscope.

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Authors are requested to make none but typographical corrections on the proof sent to them. The manuscript must represent the final form in which the article is to be printed.

PATHOLOGICAL.

Neurasthenia and Arthritism.—Dr. R. Vigouroux, of Paris, has published an interesting work on the relation of these two diseased states. He regards them as very nearly related and having a common chemical base: increased acidity of the media with consequent diminution of metabolism and slowness of nutrition. This increased acidity is demonstrated by the augmented acidity of the urine, the flushing fluid of the organism. The urine of neurasthenics, of whatever the variety is distinguished by an increase in the amount of acid eliminated during the twenty-four hours, diminution of urea and other soluble products, relative increase of incompletely oxydized nitrogenous products, very frequent appearance in the urine of abnormal substances, as free lactic acid and toxic leucomaines. These are precisely the characteristics of the urine of arthritics. From this he deduces three therapeutic indications: diminution of the quantity of food, administration of the bicarbonate of soda and treatment by static electricity. It has been the general rule to overfeed these patients which is an error. The first effect of restriction of diet is emaciation, but they soon regain their equilibrium and are happier, more inclined to work and stronger. Experience has confirmed this. The acidity of the urine requires the use of alcalies in slight doses, four to seven grams per diem of the bicarbonate. Static electricity is the vital stimulant par excellance. It is superior to massage or hydrotherapy. A certain number of neurasthenics have proven rebellious to this method, but then the use of the hot or cold douche will yield good results. Neurasthenia is generally accompanied by dyspepsia, with a diminution of hydrochloric acid in the stomach. There appears to be a certain correlation between the acidity of the stomach and that of the urine, when the one decreases the other increases. The bicarbonate of soda, in increasing the secretion of gastric juice and the amount of hydrochloric acid, relieves the dyspepsia and the urinary acidity at the same time.—(*Gazette des Hopitaux*, No. 125, 1893). F. H. P.

A Microscopical Study of the Living Nerve-Cell During Stimulation.—Hodge. (*American Therapist*, November, 1893.)

Hodge has been studying the nerve-cell continuously during the process of fatigue, and the chief result of the experiments so far is, that the nucleus shrinks when stimulated under these conditions more rapidly than when the ganglion remains in the animal's body. This decrease in size is rapid at first, then slower and more rapid again, as observed in a previous set of experiments; but the slowing up at no time amounts to a stand-still or to partial recovery. The controls shrink a very little, 3 to 8 per cent., as compared to 60 to 73.7 per cent. in the nuclei of stimulated ganglia. Granules and oil droplets have been seen to disappear from the cell-protoplasm during stimulation.

Stimulation has been continued as long as six days and nights, but active changes cease to be visible after the first five to six hours. With too severe stimulation the cells may show little or no change. The most definite results were obtained with the secondary of a Krüger coil (10305 u.) at from 10 to 13 cm. With the secondary coil at 0, no change in the cells was visible. Motile protozoa, vorticella and paramœcium, were almost instantly killed with this strength of current; whereas they were apparently uninjured when the secondary coil was removed to 10 cm. J. C.